DOCKET NO.: THOM-0022 (RA/P301529US)

Application No.: 10/088,042

Office Action Dated: July 28, 2006

REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.116

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a reclosable fastener to a substrate

which comprises:

presenting lengths of fastener to a continuous elongate substrate, said lengths of

fastener each extending transversely to the length of said substrate,

locating the lengths of fastener on the substrate by first attaching a flange portion of

the fastener to the substrate so as to leave a body portion of the fastener free for movement

relative to the substrate, and

subsequently passing the substrate with the flange portion of the fastener attached and

body portion free between a pair of sealing jaws which are dimensioned to be longer than the

body portion fastener along the path of movement of said combination of the fastener and

substrate, and which are displaceable

displacing said sealing jaws relative to the combination to effect a sealing of bring the

substrate and to the fastener body into contact in order to effect sealing of the fastener body

to the substrate when moved into contact therewith.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the length

dimension of the sealing jaws is such as to form the substrate around the body portion of the

fastener.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, which includes

locating the fastener between two substantially parallel webs of material, and initially

attaching the lengths of fastener only to the inside of one of said webs of material.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, which includes

initially attaching the lengths of fastener by means of a single flange extending from one

element of the fastener.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the body

portion of the fastener comprises two engageable elements, each having an upstanding post at

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the margin of the fastener which is engageable with a heel of the other element at the opposing margin of said other element, with the respective posts and heels of the two elements angled at their respective contact surfaces.

7.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a reclosable fastener to a substrate comprising the steps of

providing a continuous elongate web of a substrate to which a reclosable fastener is to be sealed, wherein said reclosable fastener comprises first and second interengaging profiles, at least one of which comprises a body portion and a flange portion which extends laterally from the body portion;

presenting lengths of said reclosable fastener to said web at one or more locations spaced at predetermined intervals along the length of said web, said lengths of fastener extending transversely to the length of said web;

locating a length of said reclosable fastener on said web at each said location by attaching said flange portion of said length to said web so as to leave said body portion of said fastener free for movement relative to said web of said substrate, thereby forming a combination of said web with said flange of said length of fastener attached thereto;

passing the combination of said web of said substrate with said fastener lengths attached thereto by said flange portions thereof successively along a predetermined path of movement between a pair of sealing jaws which are dimensioned to be longer than said body portion of said fastener in the direction along said path of movement of said combination and which are displaceable, relative to the combination, to effect a sealing of the substrate to the body portion of said fastener when moved into contact therewith; and

displacing the sealing jaws relative to said web of said substrate, thereby securing said web to said fastener body, thus sealing said fastener to said substrate.

12. (Canceled).